

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2004 in which claims 1-23 were pending, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were rejected, and claims 5 and 8-23 were objected to, but were indicated to include allowable subject matter. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated. With this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 8-10 are amended. Claim 5 is canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6-23 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Huang, U.S. Patent No. 6,394,852. However, claims 5 and 8-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of objected to (and now canceled) claim 5. As such, independent claim 1 now recites "an alignment key positioned between the stereo plug and one of the first and second pairs of electrical contacts." The limitations of dependent claims 2-4, which originally intervened between independent claim 1 and dependent claim 5, are not including in amended claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of claim elements now recited in independent claim 1 is patentable without the inclusion of the limitations from dependent claims 2-4. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4, 6 and 7 be withdrawn.

With this Amendment, each of objected to claims 8 and 9 is amended to include the limitations of originally filed claims 1 and 7. As such, newly independent amended claim 8 recites "an alignment key formed integrally with one of the plurality of electrical insulators of the stereo plug." Newly independent

claim 9 now recites "an alignment key formed integrally with one of the plurality of electrical contacts of the stereo plug." The limitations of previously intervening claims 2-4 and 6 are not included in the amendments to claims 8 and 9, since each of these claims are believed to be patentable without these additional limitations. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

With this Amendment, objected to claim 10 is amended to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Since claim 10 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of newly independent claim 10, as well as dependent claims 11-23, be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: John Veldhuis-Kroeze
John Veldhuis-Kroeze, Reg. No. 38,354
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

JVK/jme